

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist
Breena Apgar-Kurtz, Asst. Area Manager
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Date Issued: 7/4/2013

2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #43 **Summer Announcement #39, Districts 1 and 2 Commercial Fishing Periods** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 94,100 Chinook salmon through July 3 is well below the historical average of 124,000 for this date. Conversely, the Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate is approximately 2.1 million fish which is well above the median of 1.3 million for this date. Poor Chinook salmon run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 run progresses.

The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 3 is approximately 203,800 summer chum salmon with a reported 837 Chinook salmon released and 55 Chinook salmon caught but not sold.

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon, this announcement opens two commercial fishing periods in District 1 and two commercial fishing periods in District 2.

District 1 Commercial Gillnet (South Mouth Only): Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open for two periods with gillnets restricted to 5 ½-inch or smaller mesh size and not exceeding 30 meshes in depth to target summer chum salmon. These will be 6-hour commercial fishing periods.

Period #19: 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 5 until 12:00 midnight Friday, July 5
Period #20: 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 6 until 12:00 midnight Saturday, July 6

The area open to commercial fishing is limited to only a portion of District 1 in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low. The portion open to commercial fishing will be the South Mouth area down river of the lower point of Head of Passes to Chris Point within District 1. Both locations are identified by ADF&G regulatory markers. The area open to commercial fishing includes Black River, Kwiguk Pass, and coastal waters from the Black River to

one mile north of Kwiguk Pass. Middle and North Mouth and passes such as Aproka and Bugomowik, north of the mainstem South Mouth are closed to commercial fishing.

Commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or retain them for subsistence purposes. The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited and Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net: Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open for two periods with beach seine and dip net gear only. These will be 12-hour commercial fishing periods.

Period #15: 12:00 noon Friday, July 5 until 12:00 midnight Friday, July 5

Period #16: 12:00 noon Saturday, July 6 until 12:00 midnight Saturday, July 6

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

District 2 Subsistence Beach Seine and Dip Net: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 with beach seine and dip net gear only will be open at the same times as these commercial fishing periods. Subsistence fishermen are also required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types.

Fishermen are reminded that the requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

Fishermen in Districts 1 and 2 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the salmon fishing schedule.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-